NCERT has organized programmes for teachers and master trainers on the use of new textbook through face-to-face mode as well as teleconferencing.

(c) and (d) NCERT has set up a Reading Development Cell in the Council for promoting teacher awareness and developing new kind of graded reading material capable of encouraging the reading habit in primary school children. Objectives of the Cell include developing a teacher's manual for utilization of the reading material and creating a reading corner in selected schools.

Students going abroad under Foreign Collaboration Arrangements

4155. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI DARA SINGH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of students who went to foreign countries for education under the collaboration arrangement of his ministry with various countries during the last two years, country-wise, and till date;

(b) the estimated reduction in the number of such students after the opening of foreign educational institutions in the country during the current year; and

(c) the number of foreign students arrived for higher education in the country during the last two years under these programmes, country-wise and year wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Government, in the Ministry of Human Resource Development has entered into Educational Exchange Programmes with 24 countries [Statement (*See* below)]. These serve to encourage inter-institutional linkages, the holding of workshops and seminars and the exchange of good practices. The Educational Exchange Programmes encourage inter-institutional links that may also allow for teacher and student movement but information is not

collected of the number of students going to foreign countries, or of foreign students coming to India, to take part in activities so facilitated.

Some information is available on the total number of Indian students going abroad for education. In the year 1999-2000, it is estimated that 51,414 Indian students went abroad for education. This figure increased to 1,40,000 in the year 2004-05 of which 80,446 went to United States of America, 20,000 to Australia and 16,685 to the United Kingdom. As per information available regarding foreign students coming to India for higher education, the numbers in the years 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 were, 9,215, 10,396 and 11,934 respectively.

No foreign educational institution has established any campus in India and there is no evidence that there has been any reduction in the number of students going abroad for education.

Statement

List of countries with whom Ministry of Human Resource Development has Educational Exchange Programme

Sl.No.	Name of the Country
1	2
1.	Mongolia
2.	Armenia
3.	Tanzania
4.	Guyana
5.	Israel
6.	Australia
7.	Myanmar
8.	Hungary
9.	Syria
10.	Uzbekistan
11.	New Zealand
12.	Thailand
13.	Sri Lanka

1	2
14.	Mexico
15.	Brazil
16.	Afghanistan
17.	Croatia
18.	Ecuador
19.	Rwanda
20.	South Africa
21.	Saudi Arabia
22.	China
23.	Portugal
24.	France

Religion in the school curricula

4156. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received proposals to include essence of all important religions in the school curricula;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether such a study will help to inculcate religious tolerance and respect for other religions in the minds of the students; and

(d) if so, the reasons why the proposal is not being implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) National Curriculum Framework (NCF)-2005, seeks guidance from the constitutional vision of India as a secular, egalitarian and pluralistic society, founded on the values of social justice and equality. NCF recommends for inculcation among children a respect for all people regardless of their beliefs. It points out that India is a multicultural society made up of numerous regional and local cultures. People's religious beliefs, ways of life and their understanding of social relationships are quite distinct from one